

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

In brief, claims 43-45, 47, 52, and 56 have been canceled, without prejudice, and claims 33, 46, 48, 53, and 54 have been amended.

1 – 32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method of bone fixation, comprising:

securing anchor portions of a bone plate to respective bone regions disposed on opposing sides of a bone discontinuity; and

deforming the bone plate after the step of securing to change a relative angular disposition of the anchor portions and thus of the respective bone regions to which the anchor portions are secured,

wherein the step of deforming is performed with at least one tool, the method further comprising a step of engaging the bone plate with the at least one tool before the step of deforming,

wherein the step of engaging includes a step of placing a portion of the at least one tool into an opening of the bone plate, and

wherein the step of placing includes a step of rotating the at least one tool into threaded engagement with the bone plate.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of securing includes a step of securing the bone plate to each of at least two bones.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of securing includes a step of placing bone screws through openings of the anchor portions and into the respective bone regions.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of securing includes a step of securing the anchor portions to a radius bone.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of securing includes a step of securing the anchor portions adjacent a volar surface of the radius bone.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of securing the anchor portions to a radius bone includes a step of securing the anchor portions to a distal portion of the radius bone.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of deforming includes a step of twisting the anchor portions relative to one another.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of deforming includes a step of bending the anchor portions relative to one another.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, the bone plate having a bridge region disposed between the anchor portions, wherein the step of deforming includes a step of selectively deforming the bone plate within the bridge region.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of deforming includes a step of adjusting the relative angular disposition of the bone regions to more closely approximate a natural alignment of the bone regions.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 [[43]], wherein the step of engaging also includes a step of gripping the bone plate with the at least one tool.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) A method of bone fixation, comprising:

securing anchor portions of a unitary bone plate to respective bone regions disposed on opposing sides of a bone discontinuity by placing fasteners through apertures defined by each anchor portion; and

applying a deforming torque to the bone plate after the step of securing to change a relative angular disposition of the anchor portions and thus of the respective bone regions to which the anchor portions are secured,

wherein the step of applying a deforming torque is performed with at least one tool, further comprising a step of placing the at least one tool in threaded engagement with the bone plate.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the step of securing includes a step of placing bone screws through the apertures and into the respective bone regions.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the step of securing includes a step of securing the anchor portions to a radius bone or a finger bone.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, the bone plate having a bridge region disposed between the anchor portions, wherein the step of applying a deforming torque includes a step of selectively deforming the bone plate within the bridge region.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48 [[52]], wherein the step of placing the at least one tool includes a step of placing a pair of tools in threaded engagement with spaced apertures of the bone plate, and wherein the step of applying a deforming torque includes a step of selectively deforming the bone plate between the spaced apertures using the pair of tools.

54. (Currently Amended) A method of bone fixation, comprising:

securing anchor portions of a unitary bone plate to respective bone regions disposed on opposing sides of a discontinuity in a bone by placing bone screws through apertures defined by the anchor portions;

placing at least one tool into a pair of openings disposed at spaced positions along the bone plate; and

applying a deforming torque to the bone plate via the at least one tool after the step of securing to change a relative angular disposition of the anchor portions and thus of the respective regions of the bone to which the anchor portions are secured,

wherein the step of placing includes a step of placing the at least one tool in threaded engagement with the pair of openings.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the step of securing includes a step of securing the anchor portions to a distal portion of a radius bone.

56. (Canceled)